

## **CEFTA Deputy Ministers Meeting**

*(Belgrade, 10 June 2010)*

Dear Mrs. Chair,

Dear colleagues,

First of all I would like to express my highest esteem and gratitude to the Republic of Serbia for hospitality and perseverance in promoting the CEFTA values during its Presidency in this year.

Taking in consideration the differences in pace and status in the EU accession process of CEFTA country's, I want to inform you briefly about our progress in this process.

From beginning of this year Moldova start the negotiations on the Association Agreement with EU and are progressing well. An ambitious deep and comprehensive free trade area is to be a cornerstone of this agreement. To this end the European Commission's experts team has carried out a fact-finding mission to Chisinau on 31 May. This mission has a task to help in streamlining a preparatory process for future negotiations of the deep and comprehensive free trade area.

The DCFTA would considerably upgrade the present trade ties not only by removing tariff but also non-tariff and regulatory barriers and will support economic reforms in Moldova in different trade related areas.

Concretely, an ambitious bilateral DCFTA would provide for liberalization of provision of services, investment and access to public procurement, and anchor Moldova's trade related reforms through gradual approximation of its legislation and practices with the relevant EU laws.

Moldova has made progress in creating these conditions, but additional efforts seem to be needed.

Considering the objectives of country in this regard, we count on efficient cooperation within CEFTA, which represents a solid base for continuing the economic reforms and harmonization of national legislation to the EU practices and requirements.

For us is very important to use the regional level of cooperation to its maximum.

Speaking about future priorities of the CEFTA, we consider that member party's should be focused on opening of negotiations on liberalization in the sphere of services, creation of equal conditions for investments, opening of the public procurement market and achieving competitiveness, eliminating technical barriers to trade and harmonized trade liberalization.

In this context we should to continue our activities aimed to make the implementation of the CEFTA Agreement more efficient and of course to take a positive decision regarding the extension of the functioning of the CEFTA secretariat.

Concerning trade and economic integration process in CEFTA, you know that moldovan trade with CEFTA Parties is not very impressive.

In this regard Moldova intend to use the opportunities which is offered by participation in "CEFTA Week" and to promote Moldova like a country with large trade advantageous and favorable investment climate.

We expect that this event will help business community from the region to know Moldova better and will stimulate future trade and investment cooperation.

Our proposal for the agenda will be submit to the CEFTA secretariat as soon as possible and we hope to have support from the host part Republic of Serbia in logistical issues.